IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGLAM): (a) and (b) 191 schemes out of a total 261 sanctioned schemes have been completed under the Ganga Action Plan Phase I. The remaining schemes are under various stages of implementation. An amount of Rs. 293.77 crores has so far been spent on various schemes under the Ganga Action Plan Phase I.

(c) and (d) The following schemes are proposed to be taken up under Ganga Action Plan Phase II :—

(i) works required but not included in the first phase in the 25 class I towns with a population of one lakh and above ;

(ii) pollution abatement works in class II and class III towns identified on the main river ; and

(iii) pollution abatement works on the grossly polluted stretches of some major tributaries of the Ganga.

The details in this regard are being worked out.

Clearance to Power Projects

192. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to accord clearance to power projects on merits ; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) All the development schemes, including power projects. have all along been assessed only on merit through scrutiny of environmental data and Management Plans by Committee of Experts.

Strategies for Environmental Protection

193. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to participate in global strategies for environmental protection ; and

(b) if so, the details of the new strategies Government propose to adopt for environmental protection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The Government of India is participating and playing an active role in various ongoing negotiations under the aegies of the United Nations, such as the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the Conventions on the Climate Change and Conservation of Biological Diversity.

(b) The Government has taken several measures to protect the environment. These include legislative and policy measures, strengthening of infrastructure at Central and State levels; implementation of action programmes for 'cleaning' and 'greening' involvement of non-governmental organisations, environmental awareness campaigns and related activities. These measures are to be expanded in the future.

वनीय वृक्षों की कटाई

194. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**

कुमारी आलिया :

क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** : मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान वनीय वृक्षों की कटाई के राज्य-वार कितने मामले प्रकाश में आये हैं ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने वृक्षों की कटाई के लिए वनों की नीलामी पर रोक लगा दी है ;